

KM&F urges joint Arab arms industry

AMMAN (Petra) — Khalil KM&F, the secretary-general of the 22-member Arab League, urged Saturday the development of a joint Arab arms industry to help confront Israel. "The fundamental factors for such developed joint arms industry are available, including human, financial and raw material potentials," KM&F said in a speech to a military seminar under the auspices of the 22-member League. More than 50 high-ranking military officials from 17 Arab states are participating in the meeting seminar hosted by the United Arab Emirates. UAE Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum underscored the conference by stressing the need for Arab security. With the exception of Egypt, which concluded a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, the League members are theoretically in a state of war with the Jewish state until the Palestinian problem is settled. Among the League members, Egypt has forged ahead with a military industry base, while Syria has recently claimed the need independence of import-to-export markets.

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Cuba announces reforms

HAVANA (R) — Cuba Saturday said it would revitalise its one-party Communist system through internal reforms but ruled out the semi-party option being followed by its main political ally, the Soviet Union. The Cuban Central Committee proposed no constitutional changes but called on the party to step up its political work among Cuba's 10 million people and strengthen its popular roots. "Conditions have matured to start a concrete and practical process of perfecting the political and institutional system of the nation," the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party said in a statement covering the whole front page of the party daily *Gaceta*. It called an extraordinary meeting of the country's National Assembly for Tuesday and said the party's fourth congress would be held in the first half of 1991 at a date to be announced. The statement announced plans to reinvigorate the country's political institutions from the Central Committee and the National Assembly to the neighbourhood committees for the defence of the revolution, which are heavily involved in the day-to-day life of Cubans.

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King visits Prime Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his visit to Saudi Arabia. The King, who chaired a session of the Cabinet, called on the ministers to improve the efficiency and performance of the government and encourage investments and increase productivity to create job opportunities and help correct the economic situation of the Kingdom. The King briefed the Cabinet on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and the result of his contacts with Arab leaders. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sheriff Zaid Ben Shaker attended the meeting.

Cypriot aids ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Cypriot Deputy Foreign Minister Angelos Angelidis left Amman Saturday at the conclusion of a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the Cypriot official held talks with senior officials and signed an agreement of scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries. He was seen off by the Foreign Ministry Secretary General and the Cypriot ambassador to Jordan.

Kuwaiti minister to visit Iraq, Jordan

NICOSIA (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah will leave on a trip to Iraq and Jordan Sunday, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said. KUNA said Sabah would discuss regional events and the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arafat meets Arab ministers

BAGHDAD (AP) — Yasir Arafat has discussed with four Arab foreign ministers the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official said Saturday. Azam Al Ahram, the PLO's bureau chief in Baghdad, said Arafat's talks late Friday covered attempts to call an emergency Arab summit on Jewish immigration. The PLO chairman also reviewed plans for a visit by a seven-man Arab team to Moscow this month to discuss the issue, Ahmad said. The foreign ministers of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen were in Baghdad to discuss the agenda for a Feb. 24-26 summit of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) leaders in Amman.

U.N. envoy arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A United Nations envoy is due here Sunday for talks with the Jordanian government on the conditions of Palestinians living in the Kingdom, according to a Foreign Ministry official. He said that the envoy has been dispatched to Jordan upon a request from U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Czech party expels old guard

PRAGUE (AP) — Former President Gustav Husak, former Prime Minister Strougal and other leading former officials were expelled Saturday by the Czechoslovak Communist Party, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) reported. The expulsions were proposed by a commission probing the political responsibility of former senior party officials for Czechoslovakia's economic and political problems. They were announced during a session of the party's Central Committee.

Former Ukraine party chief dies

MOSCOW (R) — Vladimir Shcherbitsky, former chief of the Ukrainian Communist Party, died Friday after a long illness. Soviet television said Saturday Shcherbitsky, who would have been 72 Saturday, was the last survivor in the Soviet leadership from the era of the discredited Leonid Brezhnev. He was removed from the ruling politburo last September.

Lower House deputies debate abolition of anti-Communism law

By Nermess Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Several members of the Islamic Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday argued against the abolishing of the 1953 anti-Communism law.

Ibid Deputy Thounan Hindawi proposed closing the argument and approving the draft law without referring it to the Legal Committee. "We are not discussing Communist ideology, we are only concerned with the documents available to us."

Some deputies proposed the discussion of the draft law be shelved until "the National Charter which will govern political life in the Kingdom is announced."

"The proposal is contradictory to Article 2 of the constitution which stipulates that the country's religion is Islam," Tafish Deputy Abdalrah Alakel said.

Alakel said allowing a political party which adopts secularism and Communism as their ideology "will conflict with the government's declared Islamic policies."

Deputy Abdul Latif Arabyat, spokesman for the Islamic Bloc, did not however uphold Alakel's opposition to the proposal and asked that it be referred to the Legal Committee at the House to verify whether it is constitutional or not.

"We are cautious with our democracy and we want to protect it. We call for freedoms for all," Arabyat explained to the House.

Karak Deputy Eissa Madanat, a declared Communist, pointed out that the Jordanian Communist Party "never called on any of its members to become an atheist. Never attacked Islam or Christianity."

Madanat told the House that the Communist Party "has among its members Muslims who practice Islam."

Ma'an Deputy Youssif Al Athem responded to Madanat's statement and said: "If it is true

that there are practicing Muslims in the Communist Party then they are probably non-believing Communists."

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The premier and the minister were responding to a proposal by Deputy Kamel Omari to reinstate scholarships students.

Alakel, however, argued that while he understood the premier's reasons he still felt that the students should not be made to pay for the mistakes of others.

"What is the fault of the students who borrowed to continue their education? Who was responsible?" Alakel said.

The premier announced during Saturday's House session that the government has already entrusted a specialised committee with drawing up a draft law which aims at curbing corruption in the government.

The House referred the proposal to the Legal Committee for its recommendation with a majority vote of 55.

Reinstatement of academic scholarships

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the House that all scholarships which were halted for security reasons have been reinstated within the 1990 budget and universities have received instructions to that effect.

"The problem that remains is that the students whose scholarships were halted for a period of time and continued studying in universities at their own expense will not be reimbursed," Badran told the House.

He explained that the problem "is purely financial because reimbursement needs a separate budget and we do not have that kind of money," especially that if such a move was adopted it would also have to be applied on all dismissed employees.

The Minister of Education told the House that the number of



Lower House of Parliament deputies Saturday meet to discuss the abolition of the 1953 anti-Communism law (Photo by Yousif 'Al Allan).

Saudi national security is inter-dependent with Jordan's

Fahd fully understands Jordan's economic needs, Badran says

AMMAN (Petra) — King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia has expressed full understanding of Jordan's financial and economic situation during talks held with His Majesty King Hussein in Riyadh in the past week, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said in a statement Saturday.

The two leaders reviewed the financial and economic situation in Jordan and intensive efforts exerted by the Jordanian government and people to overcome the crisis, Badran said after attending the Lower House of Parliament session.

Talks between the two leaders dwelt also on Jordan's needs of Arab countries' support to overcome its economic and financial crisis.

"Riyadh views Jordan's national security as part of Saudi Arabia's, providing a guarantee for pan-Arab security and stability in the whole region," the prime minister said.

Describing King Hussein's visit as successful Badran said that a wide range of topics were discussed at the meetings which proved that the two countries hold identical views about various issues.



Madar Badran

The King's visit to Saudi Arabia constituted another link in Jordan's current moves to discuss regional and international issues, according to the prime minister.

He said that in reviewing world affairs and developments in Eastern Europe the two leaders discussed the impact of these changes on the Arab World.

LF reports control of airbase; Aoun denies claim, calls for truce

BEIRUT (AP) — Christian militiamen, striking back after a major defeat in Beirut, said Saturday they overran a besieged helicopter base held by Gen. Michel Aoun's army north of the capital.

But Aoun's command said the garrison at the Adna base in the Christian hinterland shook off repeated tank assaults by the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in close-range combat.

Aoun also called a ceasefire throughout the Christian enclave coupled with a prompt cessation of propaganda warfare as of 8:30 p.m. (1830 GMT), in response to repeated threats by Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, spiritual head of the dominant Maronite Catholic sect.

The Lebanese Forces militia headed by Samir Geagea accepted the truce and said its fighters have been ordered to stop shooting on deadline.

Both Aoun, 54, and Geagea, 38, are Maronites, the community that dominates the government, parliament, army and the judiciary since Lebanon gained independence from France in 1943.

Eleven previous ceasefires have failed to hold.

Also Saturday, a police spokesman said rescuers evacuated 32 bodies — some mutilated beyond recognition — from burned-out cars, tanks, apartments and narrow alleys of east Beirut's working class district of Ein Al Rummaneh. Aoun's troops took the district Friday.

The 18-day-old showdown for control of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has left 620 people dead and 1,829 wounded, by police count.

Among the latest fatalities were three soldiers reported killed by Aoun's command and Khalil Dehaine, 26, a part-time

The two monarchs discussed the question of Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine and reviewed ways that could help intensify contacts with the United States, the Soviet Union, European Community countries, Islamic countries and the Non-Aligned Movement to deal with the situation and to formulate ideas that would put an end to Israel's aggression on Arab land in occupied Palestine.

"Jordan," Badran added, "totally rejects the influx of Jews to Palestine as this constitutes a grave danger to peace and security in the Middle East."

The two leaders, the prime minister added, discussed Lebanon and the situation in the Gulf and urged pan-Arab efforts to put an end to bloodshed.

Referring to the projected Arab summit meeting to discuss various regional and international developments, Badran said that the two leaders stressed the importance for ample preparations for such important meeting to ensure its success.

King Hussein, said Badran, has extended an invitation to King Fahd to visit Jordan.

Ministry considers water distribution programme

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation said that it will have to seriously contemplate a programme for the distribution of water this year and to urge members of the public to save on water consumption for all purposes.

A ministry official told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times newspapers that the Kingdom's reservoirs behind dams has now collected a total of 51.3 million cubic metres of water or nearly 46 per cent of the total capacity of the dams, with 34 million cubic metres in the King Talal Dam alone which has the capacity to hold 82 million cubic metres.

The water behind the King Talal Dam is normally used to irrigate agricultural land in the central Jordan Valley region which produces most of the crops.

According to the official, the ministry expects at least 45 million cubic metres of water to be stored in the King Talal Dam's reservoir this year.

Last year's poor rainfall forced the ministry to arrange for a water distribution programme in all parts of Jordan. The programme is deemed necessary in view of the extra need of water in the summer, and in view of the presence of large numbers of visitors including expatriates, from the Gulf states spending their annual leave with relatives and friends in the Kingdom.

Mandela's early trip to Lusaka in doubt

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — A close colleague of Nelson Mandela played down speculation the freed nationalist leader would make an early trip to Lusaka to visit exiled leaders of the African National Congress (ANC).

Murphy Morobe, spokesman for the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid coalition, said Saturday there was strong pressure for Mandala to visit Natal before the year's end.

"Mr. Mandela is amenable to that pressure," said Morobe, indicating that Mandala would visit Natal before Lusaka.

The so-called black-against-black violence between the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement and UDF supporters has claimed 2,000 lives in the past three years.

Mandela, freed last Sunday from a life jail term for plotting to overthrow white minority rule, may travel to Natal next weekend, anti-apartheid sources said.

The Natal unrest is a key to negotiations between whites and blacks — the government is unwilling to lift emergency rule until order is restored in the province, while the ANC will not talk until the state of emergency is lifted.

The violence also signalled the first evidence of a rift in black anti-apartheid groups when Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi Friday accused Mandala of making errors of judgement when commenting on the bloody conflict.

Buthelezi denied quotes attributed to Mandala that police sided with Inkatha supporters against the UDF.

Another of Mandala's aides, Cyril Ramaphosa, said the trip to ANC headquarters in Zambia would be delayed for at least a week.

The ANC, signalling a cautiously positive response to President F.W. de Klerk's reform programme, announced Friday in Lusaka that senior leaders wanted to meet De Klerk to remove the final obstacles to negotiations on power sharing.

Over 100 Palestinians arrested in Israeli raid on West Bank village

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli soldiers backed by helicopters and military border police troops also took part in the raid, during which an additional 20 Palestinians were arrested for non-payment of taxes, a major uprising tactic.

It quoted an unidentified army commander of the area as saying no shots were fired during the operation.

In another development, Israeli authorities expelled from the country a Yugoslavian woman suspected of involvement in spying for the PLO, the radio reported. The 26-year-old Patricia Kanzevit was put aboard a plane that took her to Zagreb, Yugoslavia Friday.

Kanzevit was arrested by Israeli officials on Jan. 7 along with another Yugoslavian woman, Victoria David, 34.

David, a convert to Judaism who immigrated to Israel in 1987, was charged on Jan. 28 with

contact with a foreign agent, membership in an illegal organisation and passing information to the enemy.

The charge sheet alleged that she took photographs of military installations and strategic sites.

According to the charge sheet, David went by the code name of "Hilka" and was recruited in Yugoslavia into Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream branch headed by Yasser Arafat.

Kanzevit reportedly acted as a courier who transferred the information to the PLO.

The case was under a court-imposed news blackout lifted on Jan. 23 when the Hebrew daily Haaretz published the story on its front page.

In the West Bank, students protesting at school closures clashed with troops in Ramallah and Bethlehem. No injuries were reported.

More bodies found in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW — Soviet authorities said Saturday six more victims of ethnic violence in Azerbaijan had been discovered, bringing to 18 the number of mutilated corpses found in the southern region this week.

The Communist Party daily Pravda said Saturday unrest convulsing the Soviet Union threatened Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's democratic reforms and suggested a crackdown could follow unless the turmoil eased.

Discovery of the six mutilated corpses was disclosed a day after revelations that officials had found the bodies of 12 handicapped Armenians, all with knife and bullet wounds.

Major General Yevgeny Nechayev, interviewed in Kommersant Pravda, said that all 18 corpses had been found on the

same day, Wednesday, buried in separate graves about 50 kilometres apart in northwest Azerbaijan.

He did not give the nationality of the six or say whether their deaths were linked to those of the 12.

But it was clear all were victims of the Armenian-Azerbaijani ethnic conflict which has raged for two years and taken hundreds of lives.

Top Egyptian columnists attack Arafat's adviser

CAIRO (AP) — Relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) continued to worsen Saturday, as leading columnists in state-run newspapers attacked a top adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Newspaper editors close to President Hosni Mubarak have severely criticised the PLO this month for failing to issue an unequivocal condemnation of a Feb. 4 terrorist raid that killed nine Israeli tourists in Egypt.

The latest salvos came in the Saturday editions of the daily Al Ahram and weekly Akhbar Al Yom newspapers. They were aimed at Salah Khalaf, Arafat's main adviser, who recently called Egyptian newspaper editors "venomous snakes."

"These are irresponsible words from a Palestinian leader who is used to being impulsive, then

retracting. But this time, he has passed his limits because he knows snakes well, and their pits which are within his circles of interest," wrote Ibrahim Nafez, editor-in-chief of Al Ahram and a confidante of Mubarak.

Akhbar Al Yom's editor, Ibrahim Saade, went even further, accusing Khalaf of taking advantage of the Palestinian cause to make a fortune.

"Does he think that with the millions he has stolen from the Palestinians he can become equal to Egypt?" Saade wrote.

"He and tens of colleagues are fighting from within their

10-star hotels, and the Egyptian leadership's attempts to restore Palestinian rights is seen as a crime aimed at depriving them of their luxuries."

At least four strongly-worded attacks Arafat and the PLO have appeared in state-run papers since the terrorist attack on the Israeli tour bus.

Relations between Egypt and the PLO have slipped to the lowest point since Mubarak shut down PLO offices in Egypt for seven months in 1987 after the Palestine National Council criticised the 1979 U.S.-mediated Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The PLO statement that set off

the spiral of attacks failed to condemn the bus attack and appeared to equate the killing of Israeli tourists in Egypt with the killing of Palestinians in the 2-year-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Pakistani envoy in S. Arabia to discuss Kashmir problem

JEDDAH (AP) — A special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto discussed Saturday the Muslim secessionist movement in India's Kashmir province with the head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, Pakistani minister of law, justice and provincial coordination, arrived earlier in the day from Kuwait for meetings with OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid as well as Saudi Arabian officials.

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, is the current chairman of the 46-member OIC which is the umbrella for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

The Jeddah-based OIC had earlier announced unequivocal support for Pakistan and the

Muslim people of Kashmir, site of a bloody conflict between anti-Indian demonstrators and Indian security forces. The Islamic nation of Pakistan borders Kashmir.

The OIC urged India to search for a peaceful solution to the problem. Gabid told a recent press conference he contacted New Delhi on the issue but received no response.

In Kuwait, Gilani delivered a written message from Bhutto to the emir. From Jeddah, he will go to Riyadh to deliver a similar message to the Saudi monarch, King Fahd.

Sources in the Saudi capital said Gilani will meet with the Saudi minister in charge of haj affairs to discuss preparations for the 1990 pilgrimage season to the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said several Islamic issues would also be discussed but declined to specify the Kashmir issue among these.

Meanwhile, Kashmir's rebellion leader Sardar Abdul-Qayum warned Saturday that Kashmir might resort to the military option if obliged.

Kashmir is asking for peace and will not resort to the military option unless intimidated," he told the Saudi daily Okaz, adding "we are ready for more sacrifices."

Almost 100 Kashmir inhabitants have been killed since Jan. 20 with the outbreak of the latest violence in the decades-old quest for independence from mainly Hindu India.

GAZA — As part of their efforts to quell the Palestinian uprising, the Israeli authorities demolished 188 rooms, 207 kitchens and 182 bathrooms in the Gaza Strip in the first eleven months of last year, reports UNRWA News, the bulletin of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. 117 refugee families, comprising 650 people, were affected. Jabalya camp was the worst-affected population centre, with thirty families having rooms demolished. In second place came Khan Younis, where eighteen families had rooms destroyed. Eighty-eight of the room demolitions in the Strip were in 21 homes which were totally destroyed (CAABU).

Arab assailant's jail term reduced

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An appeals court has reduced the 10½-year prison sentence given a Palestinian convicted of the attempted murder of a Jordanian diplomat in 1984, a court spokesman said.

Without citing a reason or any mitigating circumstances, the court lowered the sentence of Amar Mabruki to 7½ years. Mabruki, 30, a Moroccan passport-holder, was convicted and sentenced in March 1986 for the attempted murder of Assim Qutaishat, the chargé d'affaires of the Jordanian embassy. He was also found guilty of the illegal possession and use of weapons. The Palestinian has consistently denied all charges and police have been unable to determine whether he belonged to any terrorist organisation, the spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He was convicted of trying to open fire on Dec. 29, 1984, on a car driven by Qutaishat in the northern Athens suburb of Paleo Psychiko, but his automatic pistol jammed and he fled on a motorcycle. Police later found the motorcycle abandoned nearby and returned it to a rental agency, which confirmed it was rented to Mabruki.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), did not give details of casualties or damage to buildings in Massawa, the main port serving northern Ethiopia.

The government has denied that the rebels control Massawa.

It said earlier this week that fighting was continuing there and on the road from the port to the EPLF, which is fighting for independence in Eritrea, said government forces had been dropping napalm and heavy bombs, and there had been many civilian casualties.

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Home News

'Trainee' engineers seek Parliament help to secure full-time employment

By Sami Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Seventy engineering "trainees" from the Ministry of Education staged a protest in front of the Parliament building Saturday demanding they be fully employed at the ministry.

In a leaflet they distributed to Cabinet and Parliament members, the protesters urged the prime minister, the minister of education and Members of Parliament that they be employed on a permanent, contract basis.

"Many of us have been trainees at the Ministry of Education for more than three years and we still have not been employed," said one of the protesters. "All we ask is to become permanent employees enjoying the benefits of social security and health insurance," he said.

According to another protester, who said he was a civil engineer, "some of us have been training for more than five years whereas the policy is to train for one year after the trainees become full-time employees," he said.

The engineer, like other protesters interviewed by the Jordan Times, did not want to be identified by name.

The six-in protesters also opposed being transferred to private sector consulting firms as part of an agreement arranged by the Ministry of Education. The agreement, which was not approved by the engineers, stipulated that the engineers be referred to the private sector dismissing them

from the ministry and allowing the private company to decide whether it wants to retain or dismiss them.

"We are not secure in our jobs. If neither the ministry nor the consulting firms want to employ us as permanent staff, we will be out of work," said another protester who had been a trainee for the past four years.

According to Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan, a closed meeting was held Saturday at Parliament between him, Minister of Planning Awi Al Masi, president of the Jordan Engineers Association and Deputy Laith Stabili and members representing the engineers.

Hamdan told the Jordan Times that the meeting resulted in a proposal with amendments in the agreement which the engineers had rejected.

The changes in the agreement guarantee the continuation of the engineers' jobs in the consulting firms during the four-year school building project. In the meantime, they will have priority in appointment in government jobs in any ministry in 1990 for the available vacancies," Hamdan said.

All the protesters unanimously rejected this proposal when it was presented to them outside the Parliament building. They described it as "devious and playing with words."

"They are just trying to break our unity in this protest by tempting some of us to accept this proposal. But, it is clear, we are still sticking

together. They either fire us all or employ all of us," said a young woman engineer.

"It appears that they are trying to shut us up and eventually disregard our demands. This is a proposal on how to eventually kick us out," commented another.

After the protesters' rejection was announced, Hamdan stated that he had not yet met with the protesters from his ministry, but plans to do so in the near future to reach a fair agreement.

One of the engineers told the Jordan Times that according to a decision taken by the government in 1987, all trainee engineers at the various ministries and institutions were to be appointed as full-time employees by their respective ministries.

"All of our colleagues in the other ministries were employed except us," said one woman, adding that they had been promised appointments which were not yet fulfilled.

"If we were employed at the ministry, then worked at a consulting firm during a project, we would have a guarantee that we come back to our job at the ministry," explained an engineer.

According to a source from the Engineers Association who preferred to remain anonymous, the ministry cannot employ the 70 engineers due not only to lack of funds but also to guarantees."

If they want to be appointed, it will be at the expense of other employed engineers who would have to be treated in a fair and just manner.

dismissed to allow for vacancies," the source said.

The protesters, who have degrees in civil engineering from Jordanian, American, British and East European universities, said they had presented their demands to four different ministers in office in the past with no response.

They added that their demands were given to their association — which is now negotiating with the ministry on their behalf — and to deputies to discuss their case in Parliament.

The engineers complained that their monthly salary of JD 120 for nine hours of work every day did not include any raises, benefits or compensation of any sort.

"One engineer injured his arm on site, and he paid JD 2,000 for surgery from his own pocket because he was not employed, and thus did not have medical insurance," said an angry protester.

The protesters carried banners quoting His Majesty King Hussein's words: "A human being is our most precious asset." They also carried banners reading: "Enough training from the Ministry of Education," "We demand legal contracts according to the civil service law," and "no to sending us to consulting firms without guarantees."

One engineer summed up the protest by saying that they call on Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Hamdan and Members of Parliament to treat their case in a fair and just manner.



"Trainee" engineers at the Ministry of Education stage a protest Saturday outside the Parliament building demanding full employment (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan).

CBJ presents law on moneychangers to the government

By Sevane Hisham
Special to the Jordan Times

JD 1 million capital of which JD 500,000 will be deposited with the Central Bank.

AMMAN — A newly amended draft law on moneychangers in Jordan has been submitted to the prime minister for approval, according to an announcement by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabuksi Saturday.

Nabuksi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the amended law defines the conditions for moneychangers to recommence operations, and it would be applied as soon as it has been approved by the Lower House of Parliament and other concerned authorities. Nabuksi did not disclose those conditions, nor did he give any further details on the amended law. But according to earlier reports, the conditions stipulate that the number of exchange houses be reduced to 10 large companies from the 68 which operated in Jordan prior to the February order that froze the assets of most moneychangers, and led to the closure which was prompted by "violations of regulations and tampering with the national economy," by moneychangers in the country. The reported CBJ plan also set terms which included mandatory

At the time the conditions were reported, 68 moneychangers issued a memorandum criticising them. These conditions would mean that many moneychangers would go out of business because of the huge capital required by the CBJ, the memo said. Moneychangers also argued that the required deposit with the CBJ would result in lack of liquidity, not to mention the costs of rent, deposit, equipment and decor of the new offices. When contacted by the Jordan Times to comment on the draft law Saturday, both CBJ governor Nabuksi and Deputy-Governor Michael Marto refused to give details on either the proposed law or the reported conditions.

The moneychangers demanded a "just and speedy" solution to address their situation after all private moneychanging establishments were ordered closed Feb. 8, 1989, under martial law provisions in the memorandum signed by a committee of seven representing all moneychangers in Jordan, last December, moneychangers were calling on Parliament to review the closure order.

Ministry to compensate contractors for losses

AMMAN (J.T.) — Contractors previously committed to carrying out construction projects for municipalities around the Kingdom will receive compensation from the government for losses incurred as a result of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, according to an official statement by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

The statement said that compensation will be paid for aluminium, iron used with concrete, paint, marble, stone, ceramics, wood works as well as electrical and mechanical items.

Also eligible for compensation are contractors who undertook to build a public building. They are entitled to 10 per cent compensation of the cost of the unfinished sections of the building, provided the work had to be completed after Oct. 15, 1988.

If a building is to have central heating and airconditioning systems, the compensation margin increases to 18 per cent, the statement added.

Woman donates jewelry to help the economy

AMMAN (AP) — A prominent Jordanian woman Saturday donated \$15,000 worth of jewelry to the Central Bank of Jordan to help the country's troubled economy.

Aia Abu Tayeh, a senior adviser at the Ministry of Education said the donation "is the least any Jordanian citizen can do to aid her country."

"What is the use of me living happily while Jordan is broke?" she told the AP after discussing the gift with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar.

Abu Tayeh, whose grandfather fought alongside King Hussein's family in the Arab Revolt against Ottoman colonial rule, said the jewelry includes gold and diamond-studded bracelets, necklaces and rings.

Last Saturday, Deputy Nayed Al Haddid urged all Jordanians to loan their jewelry to the CBJ for five years to help it overcome a shortage of foreign currency reserves.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Thursday declared holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday declared Thursday Feb. 22 as a holiday on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Miraj, the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven.

1,250 get jobs through ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat said Saturday a total of 2,309 Jordanians had so far checked with the ministry looking for jobs and 1,250 of them secured jobs in various fields. Answering questions by Lower House of Parliament members Saturday, Obeidat said that the Ministry of Labour was undertaking a training programme to prepare labourers in various fields to replace expatriates. The ministry is conducting a comprehensive survey to study the needs of the local market and to give priority to unemployed Jordanians, he said.

Mufti addresses Dubai forum

DUBAI (Petra) — Jordan's representative at a forum for women in management which opened in Dubai Saturday presented a working paper featuring social welfare organisations' activities and problems they encounter. Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, who is also the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) director general, referred in her paper to the challenges represented to women by economic changes and to training for women to handle small size projects. A total of 30 women from private and public sectors in Arab states are taking part in the forum whose overall objective is to provide an opportunity for women to exchange ideas and experience and to discuss managerial skills related to women in management.

Canning workers plan strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — A union representing workers in the canning industry in the Kingdom has decided to stage a strike on Saturday, March 3, to protest the Jordan Canning Company's refusal to reinstate seven of its fired workers. Union Chairman Mohammad Samih said that plans for the strike was discussed at a general meeting held last Thursday in Amman. The strike will continue until the workers' demands are met, he said.

Eye bank issues appeal for cornea donations

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The director of the eye bank in Jordan Saturday issued a public appeal for donations of corneas of deceased relatives and friends to be used as implants for citizens in need of corneas.

Within four to six hours after death the cornea of the deceased person can be safely removed without mutilation or distortion and offered to an eye patient, Dr. Fuad Al Sayegh told the Jordan Times Saturday.

"Donated corneas are badly needed by the eye bank. The corneas have to come from deceased persons not suffering from dangerous diseases, such as AIDS, cancer or tuberculosis among others," Sayegh

secure cornea donations with very little success, Sayegh said. He said the eye bank has placed an urgent order from Denmark to import at least two corneas for emergency cases. Each cornea costs at least \$750 to be paid in the country of origin for preparations before implantation, Sayegh added. He said that the eye bank in Jordan used to import corneas from the United States, Switzerland, Denmark and Sri Lanka, but work is now hampered by lack of sufficient funds.

At present, Sayegh said, the eye bank in Amman has a waiting list of 500 patients, in need of cornea. Other patients are registered with Al Bashir Government Hospital and the Royal Medical Services.

King Hussein was the first to register with the society as a donor of his corneas after his death, Petra said. The society and the eye bank, established in 1980, have been trying to

Work-related accidents total 8,944

Seminar opens on occupational safety

AMMAN (Petra) — Work-related accidents in factories and workshops last year totalled 8,944 resulting in 63 deaths, 181 total and 356 partial disabilities, according to Dr. Mahdi Al Farhan, director-general of the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Farhan was speaking at the opening session of a two-day seminar on occupational safety management, organised by the Occupational Health Safety Institute in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Amman.

"Pilgrims will be taken care of by a Jordanian medical team accompanying them to Saudi Arabia and by the Saudi Red Crescent Society," the minister said at a press conference following his return from Saudi Arabia where he held talks with Saudi officials and inspected areas where pilgrims are housed during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

The ministry is keen on providing the best services to the pilgrims and is now revising matters related to transportation and lodging in Medina and Mecca, Farhan said.

"Providing safety and protection to workers is the duty of the whole society since workers form



Sulaiman Arabyat

JAMPSCO expects to process 75,000 tonnes of tomatoes

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabyat Saturday made inspection visits to the Amman Central Market and the Arada agricultural processing centre in the Jordan Valley.

The Arada centre is operated by the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPSCO). JAMPSCO Director-General Ayed Al Werr told Petra that the company expects to receive 75,000 tonnes of tomatoes for processing this year.

Werr said that the centre's plant had a capacity of producing 35 tonnes of tomato paste per hour.

The minister visited centres in south Shuneh and Wadi Al Yabis for grading and packaging agricultural produce which is being shipped to Austria and France and was briefed on the operations.

The minister said grading and packaging centre was set up in view of their proximity to the source of production.

Computer design seminar concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on computer aided design concluded at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). The seminar featured lectures dealing with computer aided design and software development in Jordan and India. The discussions also dealt with the implementation and execution of systems pertaining to analysis and design of civil engineering projects, computer aided structural design and drafting, as well as those related to computerised architectural, structural and mechanical design.

The pilgrimage season this year takes place in the second half of June, and the Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), which comes at the end of the pilgrimage season, is expected in early July.

New lodgings will be found for Jordanian pilgrims in Medina and Mecca but those at Mina and Arafat will remain the same, the minister added.

The pilgrimage season this year takes place in the second half of June, and the Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), which comes at the end of the pilgrimage season, is expected in early July.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Meugnich, Minouchka, Flanigan and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Alia Assmura, Nabila Hilmi and Nawal Abdulla at Abd Al Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Ma'ta University.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture on accident prevention and occupational safety by Dr. Peter Compen at the Occupational Safety Health Institute — 9:30 a.m.

FILMS

- ★ A Soviet film entitled "Torpedo Vessel" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ A German film entitled "Woyzeck" (English subtitled) at Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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The strength from within

THE first anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council has generated new optimism that the ongoing efforts to forge meaningful unity between the four Arab states that make up the council are proceeding at full speed. Admittedly the ACC is very young in age and as such it still is in the embryonic stage of development; yet much has already been done to consolidate the initial gains realised in its first year. Its genesis, it will be recalled, was triggered by the many dangers and challenges that confront the Arab Order, whether these come from within or the outside. In any case, this is the right time to respond not only to external events and threats but also to the yearnings and aspirations for greater cohesion and integration on the basis of institutionalised democracy in the four Arab states that comprise the council. It is not enough to work on the external front by forging a common foreign policy. There is a pressing need to formulate common domestic policies in all the four Arab states on matters that touch the political as well as the economic and social lives of the Iraqis, Egyptians, Yemenis and Jordanians. After all the ultimate strength of the grouping stems in the final analysis from within these countries. This inner strength needs to be fortified and bolstered every step of the way as the governments concerned continue their efforts to strengthen the bonds of unity and coordination between our four states. This is not to belittle the many external threats to the council's members, be they the Israeli or Iranian threats or whatever. On the contrary such dangers are real and formidable. Rather it is to suggest that similar great challenges to the council come from within as well, where those of us who are affected most have yet to see all their dreams come true whether in the context of unity among ourselves or in greater participation in the steps being taken or contemplated to further strengthen Arab cooperation.

The recent events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe do not speak of only greater cohesion between the European countries but also of greater sense of freedom and democracy. This is the essence of the Eastern European story which we need to respond to in a like manner. The Arab Nation can no longer afford to gloss over the process of democratisation that is sweeping across the entire world. Only through the introduction and application of genuine democratic reforms can the council members ever expect to meet the challenges and dangers whether external or internal. In other words we would like to see the ACC serve not only as a nucleus for Arab unity but also as a nucleus for Arab democracy as well. How the four Arab states will affect a greater participation of their respective peoples in the decision-making process is something that has to be left for each one of them to determine for themselves. What counts most is to have the Arab peoples of the four states assume a higher profile in the decisions that will determine their future and the future of their generations.

There is hope that the projected ACC summit will address this and other equally important issues in a determined and straightforward way to the satisfaction of the entire Arab Nation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday considered His Majesty King Hussein's decision to grant amnesty to all political detainees, describing the decision as enhancing the concept of democracy and winning for Jordan further credibility before the nations of the world. The paper said that the King chose to announce the decision as the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council are observing the first anniversary of their bloc established a year ago in Baghdad. The royal gesture was of course welcomed warmly by the Jordanian family which is now living through a moment of joy over the anniversary and which is struggling behind its leader on the road to full democracy. Jordan is now stronger than ever through democracy with its leadership and people and is confirming the march to bolster its national unity and achieve further progress, the paper noted. The amnesty and the release of the political detainees set humanitarian example and provided an application of living democracy, said the paper. The political prisoners, it said, now have the right to air their views with full protection of the constitution; and the freed citizens will no doubt shoulder their responsibility and commit themselves to serving their nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily takes up the question of Israel's pressure and blackmail against Germany, and the West German leaders' favourable response to the leaders of Zionism. Tareq Masa'weh notes in his article a statement made by Bonn's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher about his country's determination to foil any European Community decision to impose sanctions on Israel for its human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories. The Arab foreign ministers should not remain impulsive in the face of this statement, neither should the Arab countries remain inactive in the light of Israel's pressure on Bonn forcing it to succumb and respond to Zionist demands, the writer warns. He says that Arabs ought now to demand that Bonn supply them with submarines in view of Germany's current plans to supply submarines to Israel and the Arab countries ought to realise that what Bonn is giving them is a contemptible lip service, and very little aid while pouring its economic aid into Israel, the writer says. He notes that the service Bonn is giving to Israel at present is detrimental to the Arab Nation. We call for a very firm stand and a reasonable form of blackmail to be exercised on West and East Germany to expose Bonn's real stand before its European allies and to safeguard Arab interests, Masa'weh added.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Right and wrong in combating inflation

POPULAR complaints about excessive price rises and higher cost of living are not new in Jordan. People now pay tribute to the reasonable price levels which prevailed until mid 1988, however, if one goes back to the newspapers, one always finds complaints of excessive prices and higher cost of living. Even 15 years ago, when things were in retrospect very cheap, the complaints from high prices of commodities mounted to such an extent that the government of the time found itself compelled to establish a special ministry, the Ministry of Supplies, and the Civilian Consumer Corporation, as if such a step would prevent further rises in price.

* What people call excessive prices, higher prices, or higher cost of living, or what economists call inflation, is actually nothing but the depreciation of money, and the loss of its value. If the value of the Jordan dinar declined to half its value relative to a certain past moment, it is only natural that the price of a given commodity or basket of commodities will double. It is commodities that maintain their exchange value. Thus the origin of higher prices lies in money, not in commodities and services, which tend to maintain their value, while the excessive growth of money supply will inevitably cause the value of the monetary unit to plunge.

What veils this simple fact from the eyes of the people is the fact that money is used as a quantitative measure of value. The money illusion implies that a dinar one year ago and a dinar now have the same value. The fact is that, on average, a dinar in 1989 is worth only 795 fils of 1988. What used to cost one dinar in 1988 should therefore command a price of JD 1.258 1989.

Money illusion is so strong that we see reasonable people who think that if they deposited JD 100 in a bank in 1988, and the bank gave it back as JD 109 in 1989, they have received a surplus surus and committed the sin of recovering more than their original capital. In reality, what they recovered was less than their capital, they only got back what is worth JD 86.6 of 1988 money. The net real loss in that case is 13.4 per cent. The interest received on that deposit was only part of the depositor's right to recover their original capital without the bank or the depositor doing injustice to the other.

The importance of this analysis is that the grievances against higher prices should not be directed against the Ministry of Supplies, which should not have existed in the first place except for the purpose of keeping stock of strategic commodities. The

grievances should be directed to the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance who are both sharing the responsibility of making money cheaper. What we call excessive value of goods is actually the excessive reduction in the value of money resulting from imprudent monetary and fiscal policies, along with other less important factors.

If we are serious about combating inflation, we should realise that the least effective measures are: price fixing in the case of a continuously depreciating currency, financial subsidies, more intervention in the market and the imposition of harsh punishments against those who do not adhere to the compulsory prices. The real and effective policy to combat inflation is to increase domestic production, improve productivity, follow strict monetary policy, especially when it comes to the issuance of more money and the extension of bank credit, and last but not least adopt a conservative fiscal policy whereby the deficit in the budget is either reduced or abolished altogether.

The difficulty of the real approach to the problem and the long time it takes, tempt governments to choose the easy way by taking conspicuous measures and seen by the people to be acting tough.

Aren't these legitimate fears?

By P.V. Vivekanand

THE very fact that many Israeli leaders and commentators describe the expected wave of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants as an issue of "survival for the state of Israel" should be a definite pointer to what lies in store for the Palestinian cause, Jordan and the rest of the Arab World and the Jewish state's rights as "sovereign state" can only be described as naive. Simply put, there is little substance in the contention that the Arabs and sympathisers with the Palestinian cause are yet unable to accept that it is Israel's business to take in as many immigrants as it can when the possibility is very real that the new arrivals will build their "homes" in occupied territory, edging out the rightful owners of the land.

The acceptance of any drawing line between the grave dangers that settlement of such a large number of Soviet Jews poses to the Palestinians, Jordan and the rest of the Arab World and the Jewish state's rights as "sovereign state" can only be described as naive. Simply put, there is little substance in the contention that the Arabs and sympathisers with the Palestinian cause are yet unable to accept that it is Israel's business to take in as many immigrants as it can when the possibility is very real that the new arrivals will build their "homes" in occupied territory, edging out the rightful owners of the land.

One does not need a magnifying glass to see that a majority of the Palestinian people, and, by extension the Arab World, have accepted the reality of Israel existing within its pre-1967 borders; well, at least that's what it would

boil down to if Israel was to launch peace negotiations today with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people have paid the price for Jewish immigration to British-mandated Palestine by giving up the bulk of their land, (whether willingly or otherwise is a secondary issue), and they should not be forced to pay again, this time the highest price ever — their identity as a people; that is the net Arab and Palestinian message to the international community.

This message should be seen in light of the Palestinian response to the threat of further displacement by new immigrants to Israel. If anything, the call by the PLO to set up transit camps in Europe for Soviet Jewish emigres instead of flying them direct from the Soviet Union to Israel speaks volumes for the political maturity, moderation and realistic approach of the Palestinian people. It was as easy for the PLO leadership to have demanded

that the new arrivals be settled in the occupied territories as it was to tell the new arrivals to go elsewhere.

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Features

Does Jordan need tourism?

By Richard H. Fanek

IHAVE had the rare privilege and pleasure of living in this unusual country of Jordan for the past year. My assignment as international tourism and airline marketing advisor to Royal Jordanian will soon end and it will be sad for me to leave Jordan. Although a strong and natural longing for the health of home is paramount, memories of this enchanting, though sometimes enigmatic, land will travel back to the United States and remain with me.

My surveys have taken me to many corners of the country, and I have met wonderful, friendly and hospitable people everywhere, from cities to desert to valleys. Thanks to the organization "Friends of Archaeology," a congenial, interested, international group, field trips to working archaeological sites have further strengthened my conviction that Jordan offers a unique tourism product and experience.

While it is hard to leave what has been the most pleasant of my tourism assignments in some 13 countries from China to Chile, in the past 10 years since an early retirement from the United States Travel and Tourism Administration, I am somewhat perplexed by what I feel is a legitimate and vital question: Does Jordan really need tourism — or does Jordan want tourism?

Obviously everyone interested in the economic future of Jordan should agree that the answer to both questions should logically be "Yes". But let us extrapolate from many fine articles in the Jordan Times by Dr. Fadel Fanek. In one of those articles, Dr. Fanek says "the government is called upon at this stage to clean up the investment climate to remove the obstacles facing serious and potential investors."

Too much has been said about an investment climate, but very little has been done so far. Dr. Fanek does not mention tourism, but his words could be applicable. I have rarely noticed in the press-other than a few to the point comments by Mimir Nassar of International Traders, and other interested tourism professionals-remarks in official pronouncements on the economy of Jordan which have stressed the value of tourism to the country as an export.

But as stated, the private sec-

tor and the "consortium" with relatively limited marketing funds, cannot do it alone. Receptive agents in Jordan have their contacts with foreign tour operators, but realistically the tour operator abroad is not in the business of developing travel destinations; he (or she) is, instead, in the business of developing towns to destinations that will sell.

The task of marketing Jordan cannot be shifted from the destination area organization, i.e. the Ministry of Tourism working with RJ as per the September 1988 agreement, to either the suppliers of the travel services or the travel trade in Jordan. The responsibility for this market development must rest with the Ministry of Tourism.

It goes without saying that mass tourism is not what is needed or wanted for Jordan. Nor is Jordan ready for greatly increased tourism in 1990/1991 owing to insufficient rooms in the key areas of Petra and Aqaba.

"Controlled Growth

Tourism" is necessary to gradually increase tourism numbers proportionately to new hotel rooms coming on line in Petra and Aqaba. Furthermore, with regards to Petra, a concerned group, the important Petra Trust, is working hard to ensure that Petra, one of the world's most unique destinations, will not be overrun and eroded by mass tourism. A controlled tourism policy can reassure those who are concerned about tourists affecting the culture of Jordan; other countries have managed to bring selective tourism segments of people with time, money and genuine interest in the country to be visited.

Where can additional funding be found for the Ministry of Tourism? I have suggested, without reactions, that many tourism organisations in the world are funded from hotel room taxes. An example is Singapore which recently increased its 3 per cent hotel room tax to 4 per cent with all monies going, not to the national treasury, but to the promotion of tourism. Jordan could take a percentage of the 10 per cent hotel and restaurant tax and follow Singapore's example which has had a booming tourism business, including incentive travel and conventions. Jordan has much to offer and is closer to world markets (Japan excepted) than Singapore. Another suggestion is

that of applying a part of the departure tax to promotion of tourism. Additionally, some of the increases in profits from tourism should be put back into promoting tourism. Surveys have shown that minimum promotional funds expended bring back many-fold foreign exchange to the country.

To cite other examples of tourism budgets compared to that of Jordan: the country of Haiti, with one of the poorest per capita income in the world, had, three years ago, more than Jordan's present tourism promotion budget, some \$200,000. In contrast, 1988 figures for promotional budgets of nearby countries show: Morocco \$7.8 million, Tunisia \$9.1 million, Cyprus \$3.3 million. Israel has asked for \$7.5 million in advertising dollars alone, with about half, or \$3.5 to \$4 million allocated to the United States, much of it placed in Christian media for the first time.

How can tourism be recognised as a major industry and export?

The World Tourism Organisation of the United Nations has strongly recommended for developing countries the adoption of a national tourism policy act. Several years ago the United States Congress legislated such a policy and created the US Travel and Tourism Administration under the Department of Commerce. The act created an under-secretary of commerce for tourism. It spelled out close cooperation with other government departments (read "Ministries") and the private sector. The act emphasised the importance of tourism to the country, and in 1989, for the first time, there was a positive balance in the tourism account. The USA's total promotional budget was \$8.3 million, ranking the USA only 22nd in size of budget among other countries. Models of the national tourism policy act are available.

It is my fervent hope that someday and soon, tourism will be recognised with actions at the highest levels by legislating a national tourism policy for the benefit of the country at home and abroad. May Jordan prosper in the years ahead, still cherishing and promoting its many outstanding, vivid memories of centuries past for the benefit of future fortunate visitors through tourism.

Everything has a price

Children tackle adults' problems — on stage

By Mariana M. Shashin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Everything in life has a price — choose your priorities carefully"; this was the message conveyed last week by a children's play, "The Fisherman and the Rainbow Fish," at the Amman Baccalaureate School (IBS).

For consecutive days, 27 IBS students acted, played cellos, violins, flutes and clarinets and managed the one-hour performance, which was directed by their drama teacher Hala Khoury.

"We had full houses for all four performances," said Khoury, who graduated two years ago with a degree in drama from the University of Yarmouk.

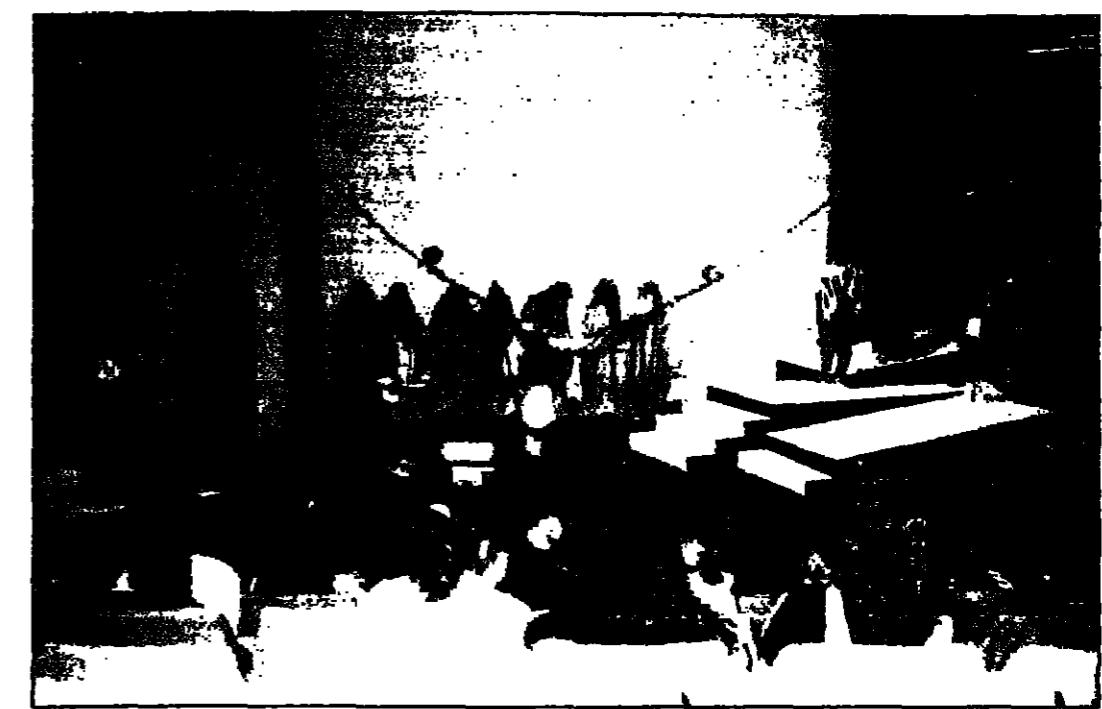
The play, written by Jordanian writer Nader Omran, deals with the concept of human greed and its effects on human relations. While the child actors performed as grown-ups who either could or could not deal with sudden wealth and the "superficial" happiness that it brings, the play dealt with another significant concept, namely the sharing of wealth with the state.

While it may not have been the intention of Omran, the play touched upon one issue which may be of interest to not only the state but also those with wealth in our society as well.

"Do not keep the treasure for yourself," said the fisherman to his wife, "give it to our ruler so that he may continue to take care of us." The theme thus touches upon very contemporary issues in our country's political and economic life.

On the surface, the play was a "school" production and often used techniques unrelated to the theme to make the audience laugh. On another level, it was a classical portrayal of real issues that cause social and economic ills. While not intending to read more between the lines than there actually was, the children exposed themselves and their audience to issues directly related to our society.

"First of all, most of our formidable critics don't show up to watch the plays although we send them invitations. Secondly, this is a beginning and everyone has to begin somewhere and we have begun. We are beginning with classical concepts in an Arab environment," Khoury says. "Since there is not a long history of theatre in Jordan we have to



Children play adults at last week's performance of The Key

begin with classical themes before we advance to more modern surrealistic concepts."

Khoury said that the use of the Arabic in children's plays is very important because it brings the children who are involved in child theatre in Jordan closer to home. Almost all children involved in any manner in child theatre in Jordan are those attending private schools who are often more exposed to non-Middle Eastern art forms and themes.

Khouri says,

"It's very important to note that many of the 16 children who acted in the play were expatriate children and that their Arabic was weak when they began the class,"

Khoury said.

She said while many of the themes were not necessarily limited to geography dealing with more universal than regional themes, it was important for children to relate to their immediate environment as well as their universal one.

Although only part of the dialogue in the play was in classical Arabic, Khoury felt it was a big achievement for her

students, most of whom participated for the first time in a theatrical performance.

Asked if they wanted to continue participating in school productions the children unanimously said yes. Six said they would be interested in theatre at advanced stages in their education and thought of being involved in theatre as a career.

Some observers criticised the play and the performers for bringing in "elements" that they felt had little to do with "our society," because, as one critic put it, "I doubt that anyone's grandmother sold goods on the market the way it was portrayed in the play. It looked more like an Egyptian market scene than a Jordanian one."

Whether an accurate portrayal of life in Jordan or not, the Fisherman and the Rainbow Fish dealt with very authentic and contemporary themes. It was a fine example of team effort and an encouragement to those looking forward to further participation and creations by children in the world of theatre.

Try La Parolaccia for a ridicule

By Jim Serjeant
Reuter

ROME — Walking into Rome's La Parolaccia restaurant is like taking a curtain call in a Broadway flop.

Howls of derision greet every customer who squeezes through the narrow front door. By the time you sit down, you've probably been insulted more in five minutes than in the rest of your entire life.

It's all in an evening's work at the Parolaccia, where the customers get a tougher grilling than the steaks.

The owners have been serving up a recipe of bawdy jokes and a vicious line in personal abuse that has been packing diners into the rough and ready tavern for the past 37 years.

If you're lucky, a waiter will take your coat before squashing you behind a narrow table already shared by five other people. When you look for it, it will have been flung over one of the dozens of wine bottle racking the wall.

Thick white plates crash down on the table with ear-splitting force announcing the arrival of the first course — you've already realised it's best not to risk asking for the menu.

Above the din of guitars and accordions, the waiter makes apparently friendly inquiries about where you come from, who your partner is, or why you're alone.

Honesty does not pay. "From Milan? Yes. You've got the face of an idiot," the waiter replies.

"He's one from Germany," comes a shout from another table. "Thought so, she's got a backside as big as a Volkswagen," reports his colleague to the raucous delight of the assembled company.

There's little to be done but cover red-faced in your seat and wait for attention to switch to the next hapless victim coming through the door.

Often brusque and unwilling to put themselves out, Romans rank low in the qualities of courtesy and friendliness that are prevalent in the rest of Italy.

But at La Parolaccia — which means "sweat word" — Signor Nino Insolente (literally "Mr. Insufferable") and his band of jesters have developed a no-holds-barred style of customer ridicule that makes the 100-seat tavern unique among Rome's more than 800 restaurants and pizzerias.

Every four-letter word invented, every joke and double entendre is used to flavour a ribald running commentary at the expense of the customers about cuckolded husbands, lusty wives and sexual prowess that is flavoured with a dash of latratorial humour in the worst possible taste.

"All sorts of people come here — young people, businessmen, foreigners. They love it," said Alberto Cianfanelli, one of the restaurant's three middle-aged owners.

"No one's ever taken offence. No one's ever walked out. If we see that a customer is really taking it badly, we lay off them and switch to somebody else," he said.

Musicians and waiters stroll the narrow passageway between tables, relentlessly baiting the diners with crude sign language, and eventually discover a young couple who have foolishly admitted they are on their honeymoon.

They are subjected to a dirigeon life and a stand-up question and answer session that has the rest of the customers rolling in the aisles.

The only light relief comes from the food, which is surprisingly good and plentiful, although it arrives erratically and there's little choice over what you get.

And at about \$0,000 lire a head (\$40), the price is about right for medium-priced restaurants in Rome.

But scrutinising the indecipherable bill is guaranteed to provoke another cutting retort and, heading for the door, you realise with a sinking feeling that La Parolaccia is going to get the last laugh.

"What a miserable tip. You tight-fisted?"... comes the inevitable parting shot.

3rd World's 'silent crisis' looms

Lion features

GIVEN the Third World's other, more immediate, problems, it is not surprising that its "silent crisis" is often in danger of being overlooked.

But the impact of the population explosion and its repercussions will be felt before long. For instance, one of the latest expert studies estimates that by the year 2010, developing countries will have to find jobs for 700 million more workers.

The size of this challenge may be gauged by pointing out that the total represents more jobs than are now available in all the industrialised nations.

Whether the 21st century world will be able to feed and house, let alone provide health care, education and jobs for all its people, will all too soon become a crucial issue that could even effect global

order and security.

Expert concern over population growth is sharpened by the realisation that much of the increase is occurring in already overcrowded urban areas of the Third World.

These are destined to become the feared megacities of tomorrow. Unless drastic action is taken in the meantime, Brazil's São Paulo, Mexico City, Calcutta, Cairo and Tehran will be among the largest of these megacities.

It is estimated that São Paulo, which had about six million inhabitants in 1970, could contain as many as 23 million by the turn of the century. Over the same period, Cairo and Tehran will be among the largest of these megacities.

By the year 2025, only about one person in six will be living in what is now the industrialised world — and it will be an ageing population. This will increase the burden of supporting the economically inactive members of the community.

Except in Africa and much of the Middle East, birth rates are now falling in developing countries. Nevertheless, in 37 of them the population is still rising by more than three per cent a year.

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Rich countries give hope to East Bloc aid seekers

BRUSSELS (R) — The world's richest countries gave a strong hint Friday that they would soon give aid to East European states seeking Western money as they ditch communism.

Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Romania and East Germany put in bids to join Poland and Hungary in an aid and support programme from 24 leading industrialised democracies, including the European Community (EC), the United States and Japan.

An EC spokesman said the meeting of senior officials from the 24 countries had not been set up to endorse new admissions, but wanted to encourage the countries anyway.

"The 24 confirmed their readiness to coordinate assistance...adapted to each country's own situation and on the basis of commitments...to political and economic reform," a statement said.

Reforming countries had to commit themselves to switching to a market-oriented economy and multi-party system, and to hold free elections to join the aid programme.

"But they don't have to fulfil

them 100 per cent before being entitled to benefit," the spokesman said. A clear indication the countries meant to go in the right direction would be enough.

Officials "expressed their encouragement and their support for the measures already taken or envisaged by each of the countries," the statement said.

And they endorsed a pragmatic approach to requests for billion-dollar loans for Yugoslavia, help with nuclear safety for Czechoslovakia, and equipment to make antibiotics, carpets and shoes for East Germany.

Emergency medical and food needs were being treated separately, an EC official said, adding that Romania in particular had already benefited from this aid package.

Britain and West Germany suggested offering immediate help with management training, and access to a know-how fund to ease the switch to a market-oriented system, the EC spokesman said.

Fact-finding missions would go to all five countries to help complement submissions made during Friday's meeting.

The European Community called on the 12 members of the group to associate themselves with a billion dollar medium-term loan it pioneered to help Hungary's structural adjustment.

The first tranche of this, worth \$400 million, would be made available as soon as the International Monetary Fund agreed a standby agreement for the country.

The Group of 24 welcomed an announcement from Paris during their meeting that Poland's Western government creditors had agreed to reschedule a record \$9.4 billion of debt payments.

The accord, clinched after two days of talks, will postpone the 1989 payment of \$9.4 billion in principal loans and interest—the largest sum yet rescheduled by the Paris Club.

The Group of 24 meeting was the fifth since the Group of Seven richest countries launched the aid plan at their Paris summit last June.

Its officials meet in Brussels again on May 22, and ministers will hold their second meeting here in early June. The European Community's executive commission is coordinating the effort.

Report highlights role of Jewish immigration

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's largest bank predicts Soviet immigration will sharply increase the Zionist state's population and boost its economy in the long term.

"This large immigration will be of tremendous benefit to Israel in its economic, social and security aspects; even though it will be fraught with substantial temporary difficulties," said a new economic report from Bank Hapoalim.

The bank said economic growth, which was only 1.1 per cent last year after a meagre 1.7 per cent in 1988, would accelerate dramatically under the impact of the new immigrants.

"Immigration will set the economy on a growth path of six per cent a year during the next four years," said the report issued this week.

The economic projections, which undermine growing Israeli confidence, assumed military spending would remain stable and Soviet immigration would hit unprecedented levels.

The bank claimed the 26-month-old Palestinian revolt in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank was now having little effect on the economy.

The Israeli budget presented less than two months ago provided for the arrival of 40,000 immigrants, although the government conceded at the time its figures were probably already out of date.

Some 5,000 Soviet Jews a month are now arriving in Israel and Bank Hapoalim predicted the rate would rise steadily through the year to reach an annual total of 120,000.

After accounting for 20,000 to 30,000 Israelis leaving each year, the next inflow is expected to raise the population from 4.5 million now to 5.25 million by the end of 1993, the bank said.

"In the next four years immigration is anticipated to reach a total of about half-a-million people," the report said, a level of immigration unseen since the early days of the state.

However, the bank conceded the surge of immigration will also create initial difficulties for a country already suffering high unemployment and 21 per cent inflation.

Inflation will remain at the same level because of extra demand while the number of jobs will rise four per cent a year just to prevent an increase in the present unemployment rate of nine per cent, the bank said.

"This means that even with successful absorption of the immigrants, high unemployment rates must be expected in the next few years," it noted.

The extra funds needed to train, house and employ will raise the foreign debt by \$4 billion, the bank said. But that would be offset by the growth in the economy and would be a high-yield investment.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Hanson buys 45% stake in Peabody

LONDON (AP) — British conglomerate Hanson PLC has said its U.S. arm was buying a 45 per cent stake in Peabody Holding Co. Inc., the largest coal producer in the United States, for \$504 million in cash. Sir Gordon White, chairman of Hanson Industries, called the purchase "an attractive investment." Hanson Industries agreed to buy the Peabody Holdings of three U.S. shareholders, Boeing Co., Bechtel Investments Inc. and Energy Company Eastern Enterprises. U.S.-based Newmont Mining Corp. is the other major shareholder in Peabody, with a 55-per cent share. Hanson owns a 49-per cent interest in Newmont Mining, acquired as part of its \$3.3 billion (\$5.6 billion) acquisition of Consolidated Gold Fields PLC in August 1989. White said more than half the electricity produced in the United States comes from coal, a resource far more abundant than petroleum. Peabody had pre-tax profit of \$136.5 million sales of \$1.74 billion in 1989. After-tax profit was not available, Hanson said.

Canary Islands to change tax system

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Spain (R) — The Canary Islands are to change their tax system to pave the way for full integration into the European Community (EC) the local government has said. The Canary Islands, a province of Spain off the northwest coast of Africa, opted out of the customs union, common farm policy and tax system of the EC when Spain joined in 1986 in order to protect the booming tourist industry. But Spanish authorities have now reached an initial agreement with the Canary government to bring its tax system into line with EC norms, an island government spokesman said. Thousands of British, West German and Scandinavian holidaymakers have flocked to the islands, attracted partly by their duty-free status. But tourism has slumped over the past year, and the Canary parliament sought full EC incorporation in December, although with concessions to reflect high transport costs to the islands. Under the accord, the seven islands which include Tenerife, Lanzarote and Gran Canaria, will in future levy a unified indirect tax in place of a series of local taxes.

U.S. trade deficit falls for 1989 but industrial production weakens

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit dropped a surprising 30 per cent in December and helped bring the 1989 shortfall to a five-year low, the Commerce Department said Friday, but there were fresh signs of a weakening industrial economy.

The Federal Reserve Board said that in January output from the nation's mines, plants and utilities slipped to the lowest rate in more than 3½ years. Factories were running at only 81.9 per cent capacity compared with 83.1 per cent in December.

"The bottom line is that the industrial sector is in a recession," commented Allen Sinai, senior financial economist for First Boston Co. in Boston.

"It's not a big recession, but it's throughout a large part of the industrial sector," Sinai said. It has led to layoffs in auto and other manufacturing industries for 10 straight months.

The weakening domestic economy may have helped in shrinking the trade deficit to \$7.2 billion in December from \$10.3 billion in

November — the lowest since a \$6.7 billion gap in December 1984 — by curbing consumers' appetite for imports.

For the year, the deficit slid to \$108.6 billion from \$118.5 billion in 1988. It was the lowest shortfall since 1984, when it was \$106.7 billion.

Imports fell 5.9 per cent during December to \$38.3 billion. Exports rose 2.4 per cent from November levels to \$31.1 billion.

A rise in shipments from aircraft producer Boeing Co. after it settled a long strike boosted exports in December by as much as \$700 million, Sinai estimated, accounting for nearly all the foreign sales rise.

Auto sales picked up in January and early February because of dealer incentives, which may indicate consumer spending that accounts for about two-thirds of economic output will rebound.

David Jones, an economist with Aubrey Lanston and Co. in New York, noted there was an additional benefit for the trade balance from lower oil imports,

which fell in December by 10.5 per cent to 226 million barrels.

"Certainly the economy is vulnerable because not only are we seeing huge layoffs on the manufacturing side but it's spreading to the financial services side too," Jones said, referring specifically to the bankruptcy filing last week by junk bond broker Drexel Burnham Lambert which may cost thousands of jobs.

A Bush administration official, Commerce Undersecretary Michael Darby, said the trade figures were "quite encouraging" and showed hopeful trends including a 1989 surplus of \$1.5 billion with the European Community after a deficit in 1988 of \$9.2 billion.

The U.S. trade deficit with Japan — the largest with any single country — fell to \$3.5 billion in December from \$4.0 billion in November. For the full year 1989, the trade gap with Japan declined to \$49 billion from \$52 billion.

Drexel fires thousands

NEW YORK (AP) — Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. fired thousands of workers Friday as the former junk bond powerhouse continued dismantling as part of the largest bankruptcy filing in securities industry history.

"There are some tears today. We all regard it as a real shame and a tragedy," said John Oden, director of institutional placement in Drexel's real estate division in Beverly Hills, California. "I feel like it could have been prevented."

Drexel spokesman Steven Andrade said letters of termination were sent to the bulk of Drexel's 5,300 workers Friday. The remaining employees — from investment bankers to secretaries — will stay on temporarily to finish pending business.

"You've got assets here," Andrade said. "We still (have to) negotiate, try to straighten things out, real estate to unload."

The investment firm said it was completing severance packages for most of the fired workers, which included the 400-member Beverly Hills junk bond division.

The operation long headed by Michael Milken was largely responsible for the firm's rise from the margins of Wall Street to billion-dollar profits and subsequent decline amid crushing scandals of the late 1980s.

The high-yield bond division was devastated last year by the departure of Milken after his indictment on fraud and racketeering charges, and the subsequent collapse of the junk bond market.

Meanwhile, most of Drexel's multi-billion-dollar U.S. Treasury securities portfolio was liquidated by Thursday, aided by a rise in bond prices in the past week, Drexel executives said.



JORDAN TIMES

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Feb. 10, '90 and ending Wednesday Feb. 14, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	2000	3504	1.750	1.760	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	6040	20831	3.590	3.410	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	9580	16066	1.680	1.700	1.000
Housing Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1816	26675	14.700	14.650	5.000
Bank of Jordan	5880	150458	261.000	261.000	10.000
Arab Bank	15581	40093	2.550	2.600	1.000
Jordan National Bank	150	196	1.300	1.370	1.000
Arab Banking Corporation Bank (Jordan)	4100	14976	3.950	3.600	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	96910	229130	2.370	2.410	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	6171	15144	2.470	2.480	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	2550	2435	1.040	0.970	1.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	75750	134605	1.850	1.810	1.000
Jordan Insurance	3486	8689	2.550	2.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	500	725	1.400	1.450	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	10151	22006	2.000	2.370	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	200	344	1.760	1.720	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	450	765	1.700	1.700	1.000
General Arab Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Eagle Insurance	1972	4557	2.350	2.310	1.000
Universal Insurance	13815	14796	1.150	1.070	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	2900	2565	1.100	1.010	1.000
Danco for Housing and Investment	26046	246775	0.980	0.950	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	38212	251655	0.700	0.670	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	25887	160602	0.560	0.650	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tecero	15170	148138	1.070	1.100	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	8451	11856</			

Sports

Becker reaches final of Indoor Belgian

By Bert Lannen
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Top seed Boris Becker beat sixth-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) to reach the final of the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP tennis tournament Saturday.

The West German world number two took the first set after a service break in the fifth game, prompting Gustafsson to change tactics and rush the net.

The Strategy paid dividends as the 23-year-old Swede, ranked 36th in the world, broke Becker in the fourth game of the second set to lead 5-2.

Becker repeatedly cried out in frustration at missing shots and threw his racket high into the air during the seventh game before regaining his composure and breaking back.

He broke Gustafsson twice to love for a 6-5 lead but the Swede broke back to take the set to a tiebreak, which Becker won 7-4 after twice diving to stop passing tactics and rush the net.

Becker said of his second set outbursts: "It's not so much that I get angry, it's more that I get into the match. I put my heart more into the match."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH GENE SHAW & TANIAH HIRSCH
© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY WAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 3 4

♦ J 10 9

♦ Q A K Q 8

♦ A K J

WEST

♦ Q 10 7 3

♦ 6 4

♦ J 10 3

♦ 9 7 6 5

♦ 10 9 8 4

♦ 7 6 3 2

SOUTH

♦ A J 9 6 2

♦ A Q 8 7

♦ 4 2

♦ Q 5

Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Don't look at a particular card combination in the abstract. Consider the whole hand. How you play one holding could be affected by what happens elsewhere, and vice versa. As an example, study this hand and decide what card you would lead from dummy at trick two after you win West's opening diamond lead.

No sooner had South opened the bidding than North decided to drive

the hand to slam. However, there was no need to respond more than two diamonds and consume bidding space unnecessarily. We are surprised, though, at North's choice of final contract. With a balanced 21 count, we would have opted for 6 no trump.

Against six spades West led the ten of clubs. The minor suits were going to provide declarer with three discards, but declarer would still have to rely on a finesse to avoid a heart loss. Then there was the question of the trump suit. Have you decided what to do yet?

Take full credit if you elected to run the jack of hearts at the second trick. Why? Because you don't know how to play the trump suit until you know whether you have a heart loser!

Suppose the jack of hearts loses to West's king. Now you cannot afford to surrender a trump trick as well. Your best shot, therefore, is to cash the king of trumps and then finesse the jack.

But when the jack of hearts wins, you can protect against the possibility of losing two trump tricks. Cash the ace of trumps and lead toward dummy, simply covering any card that West produces. As long as trumps are no worse than 4-1, you have limited your losers in the suit to one.

Kuwait emblem unacceptable to Saudi Football Federation

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Football Federation Saturday said it was not participating in the upcoming Gulf Cup tournament in Kuwait because the event's emblem was unacceptable.

The Saudi federation rapped Sheik Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the president of Kuwait's Football Association, for the emblem, which used symbols linked to Saudi military defeats earlier this century.

The football federation statement distributed by the official Saudi press agency pointed out that the emblem was the horses Ebiyan and Shouwayma, and the accompanying statement, "the Saudi Football Association announced.

"It is something ancient and it was not suitable that such be taken as an emblem for a sports championship meant to foster friendship and love along honourable sports principles among the sons of the Gulf Arab states."

Kuwait residents said the two horses were considered vital in a battle in the early decades of the century in which Kuwait repelled an invasion from Saudi Arabia.

It is known as the battle of Al Jahra, named after the site where it took place, some 30 kilometers north of Kuwait city.

"The Saudi Football Federation knows full well that Sheik Fahd ... knows the full reasons

that led to the decision" to pull out the Saudi team from the tournament, said the statement, also rejecting Sheik Fahd's statements that he was not officially advised of the Saudi cancellation.

The confrontation involves relatives close to the rulers of both countries.

Sheik Fahd, chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and a member of the International Olympic Committee, is a brother of the emir of Kuwait, Sheik Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The reasons lie in the emblem that the supreme organising committee used by Sheik Fahd adopted for the 10th Gulf Cup soccer tournament, the two horses Ebiyan and Shouwayma, and the accompanying statement," the Saudi Football Association announced.

"It is something ancient and it was not suitable that such be taken as an emblem for a sports championship meant to foster friendship and love along honourable sports principles among the sons of the Gulf Arab states."

Iraqi team leaves for Kuwait to defend its Gulf Cup title

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's national soccer team left for Kuwait Saturday to defend its regional title in the 10th Gulf soccer tournament.

The team is anxious to hit a winning streak again after a series of recent defeats. These included its failure to qualify for the Asian Nations Games last year, the World Cup championship to be played in Italy in June and the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Team coach Anwar Jassam said he hoped the revamped team, which includes seven international players, will retain the Gulf title it won in 1988.

The tournament, which is staged every two years, begins Tuesday and will last through March 9.

The Iraqis will have to defeat tough teams like the United Arab Emirates, which qualified for the World Cup, and the equally strong Kuwaitis who won the Gulf title four times.

The Iraqi team is flying to Kuwait after spending a rigorous month in training camp and playing warm-up friendly matches against Denmark, Norway and South Korea.

Jassam is taking 22 players with him to Kuwait, including the core of the national team which played in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A Sunday to make plans for your business or vocational outlet for the rest of the year no matter your occupation happens to be. Balance your liabilities and assets.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do a favour for those who have entertained you. Plans that have been postponed at your residence can now be put in effect.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Accept invitations now extended to you by influential persons for the evening. Much tact is now required to get romantic attachment to do you wish.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some thoughtful presents now to members of your family. Several persons you both like will entertain you and your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can learn a great deal by inviting intelligent persons into your home. Get your surroundings more as your attachment would like them to be.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Invite persons into your home to whom you are happy to see. Keep up your social life today and reap the benefits from it.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Long time friends are now your best social companions. Much conversation and planning now between friends and family produces fine results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You want to get away for a change from your home, so do so now. Much activity with your attachment now will bring good results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get along now with good friends for having happier moments. You now have a chance to get conditions improved with your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go along now with what discriminating friends want you to do. You can now enjoy those long

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will have special abilities and skills that they will need to share with others less fortunate than themselves. Blessed with natural good health and stamina this individual may attempt to push their health at too fast a pace so they will need to be taught to look after themselves while they are looking after others.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get along now with good friends for having happier moments. You now have a chance to get conditions improved with your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go along now with what discriminating friends want you to do. You can now enjoy those long

The stars impel, they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you.

Liverpool into F.A. Cup quarterfinals

LONDON (R) — Holders Liverpool reached the quarterfinals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup on Saturday with a 3-0 win over Southampton.

But last year's losing finalists Everton failed to end second division Oldham Athletic's 32-match unbeaten home record, drawing 2-2.

On a day of no major upsets, the greatest surprise in the fifth round was caused by Oldham, who came back from a seemingly hopeless two goals down at home to snatch a draw on their controversial artificial pitch.

Liverpool, playing the day's only all first-division tie, were in fine form with Welsh striker Ian Rush scoring his 19th goal of the season.

Aston Villa, second in the

league, won 2-0 at second division midlands neighbours West Bromwich Albion.

First division Crystal Palace, whose goalkeeper cost 50 times as much as fourth division Rochdale's entire team, stopped their opponents' best ever cup run with a 1-0 home win.

On Sunday, Manchester United play second division Newcastle in their cup tie while third division Blackpool host first division Queens Park Rangers and Sheffield United are at home to Barnsley in an all second division encounter.

In the English first division, champions Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday but remain third, eight points behind Liverpool and seven behind Villa.

But Oldham hit back. A 60th minute penalty gave Andie Ritchie

his 25th goal of the season and Roger Palmer made it 1-1 with a 60th minute header.

Everton's Merseyside rivals Liverpool had all their own way at Anfield, England striker Peter Beardsley scoring his 14th goal of the season in the 64th minute and Scotland international Steve Nicol chipping in the third in the 77th.

Liverpool have now gone 16 games without defeat. Villa booked their quarterfinal slot after centre-half Derek Mountfield headed home in the 24th minute and winger Tony Daley hit a virtuoso solo goal in the 88th.

The last time they met West Bromwich met in the competition was in 1957, when Villa won a semifinal replay 1-0.

Navratilova meets Shriver in Chicago semifinals

CHICAGO (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova overcame Tammy Whitlinger 6-0, 6-1 Friday night to advance to the semifinals of the Virginia Slims of Chicago tennis tournament.

Navratilova, going for her 10th Chicago title, meets eighth seed and former doubles partner Pam Shriver for the 38th time in a

match.

Garrison served her fifth match to grab a 6-5 lead, then broke Tauriz in the 12th game when she double-faulted to end the match.

Maleeva said she was surprised at beating Fairbank easily.

"While my tennis is improving, I've still got to improve to break into the top five," said Maleeva, ranked number eight in the world.

Fairbank, number 27, held serve only once, in the fourth game of the opening set when she had two service winners. She then double-faulted twice to lose the opening game of the second set.

Maleeva served a pair of aces in the second game, and closed the match with another ace and a service winner.

Garrison beat Maleeva in three sets in last year's semifinals, and Maleeva said she doesn't want to make the same mistake this year.

Agassi rings in the new with some of the old fire

By Linda Fentz
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — Andre Agassi, the brash 19-year-old American who fell on hard times last year, has mellowed, picked up his game and started his 1990 campaign on a winning note.

An emphatic 6-1 6-3 victory over compatriot Todd Witsken in the final of the San Francisco tennis championships last Sunday — the first U.S. event on the ATP calendar — equalled his entire title credits for 1989.

Agassi rocketed to third in the world in 1988 by winning six titles and reaching two Grand Slam semifinals.

But last year, with just one title and his first Davis Cup defeat, Agassi succumbed to a barrage of negative press over a perceived lack of will, erratic performances

and a circus-like atmosphere that often surrounded his matches.

This season Agassi appears to have tempered his on-court behaviour, applauding opponents less often, indulging in less repartee with fans and only occasionally tossing his sweat-soaked shirts into the stands after matches.

But his legion of female teenage followers should not despair. He has retained his trademark long, blond-streaked hair and the new outfit he unveiled at the year-end masters — the denim shorts have made way for black shorts over bright pink bicycle tights — is flashier than ever.

Agassi still aims to please, but says he has learned to "discipline myself and grow up" during the six-week layoff prior to his first tournament this year.

He has also begun to experi-

ment with a serve and volley game, a tactic he used with increasing confidence and good results as he advanced through the San Francisco tournament.

"I made more than I missed which is an achievement in itself," said Agassi, who played doubles for the first time in two years to further hone his vollying skills. He and American partner Martin Blackman reached the quarter-finals.

PASSPORT LOST

Indian passport No. T 361007, issued to Amrik Singh, in Jullundur, India, has been lost in Karak area.

Finders please contact the Embassy of India, Amman, or the nearest police station or P.O. Box 184233, Amman.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Reputable and well established large Saudi industrial group is looking for qualified and experienced personnel for one of its divisions (trucks/cars sales agency). Requirements are as follows:

1. Accountant:-

- University equivalent accounting degree.
- At least five years experience in similar position with touch key adding ability.
- Capable of supervising accounting subordinates and report to accounting supervisor.
- Candidate should have potential to be promoted to more senior accounting position.
- Speak, read, and write English well.
- Home country driver licence.

2. Sales Representative:-

- University degree or equivalent diploma/certificate in automobile trade. (Mechanical background preferred).
- Min. four years experience in similar position.
- Speak, read, and write English well.</li

World News

'No unification' if West insists on NATO membership-Soviet expert

WEST BERLIN (AP) — A top-ranking adviser to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said Saturday "there won't be any German unification" if the West insists on a NATO membership for the combined German states.

The questions of NATO membership and the German military stance have become increasingly important as officials try to work out the details for reunifying East and West Germany.

"If the Western alliance sticks with its demand for a NATO membership of all of Germany, then there won't be any German unification," Valentin Falin said in an interview with Seeland State Radio.

Falin, in addition to serving as a Gorbachev adviser, is the head of the international section of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. He also is a former Soviet ambassador to West Germany.

"We are talking about doing away with the military factor in Europe overall," said Falin.

West German officials, pushing ahead with plans for German unification, have proposed a 16-state federal system and a defense strategy linked to continued membership in NATO.

Hong Kong constitution celebrated

BEIJING (R) — China's senior leaders, including 85-year-old Deng Xiaoping, made a rare public appearance Saturday to celebrate the drafting of Hong Kong's constitution, take effect after Britain relinquishes control of the colony in 1997.

The climax of more than four years of often controversial talks is widely seen as a diplomatic success for Beijing.

Five of China's most powerful men posed in the Great Hall of the People for a group photograph with the Chinese and Hong Kong drafting committee delegates — all appointed by Beijing.

"This historical significance not only for the present but also for the future... thank you very much for your work. I congratulate you on your work," Deng said in a faltering voice.

He called the document "a creative masterpiece."

to administer a united Germany and voted unanimously for a 16-state federal system.

They proposed dividing East Germany into five states along the lines of traditional regions: Brandenburg, Mecklenburg, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt and Thuringen. That system was abolished under Communist rule, which divided the state into 15 administrative regions.

West Germany's federal system allows considerable autonomy to individual states and is similar to the U.S. model.

Gov. Bjoern Engholm of Schleswig-Holstein, a Social Democrat, said a joint council of governors from the 16 Eastern and Western states should convene this year.

Lothar Späth, conservative governor of Baden-Württemberg, said the East Germans could save years of legislative haggling by adopting West German laws and regulations. That would speed monetary union and economic reform, he said.

In East Berlin, the interim Communist-led government said it was preparing a law that would allow private companies in such sectors as construction, transport, tourism and small- and middle-sized factories.

democracy demonstrations in Beijing.

Hundreds of thousands of outraged Hong Kong people took to the streets in unprecedented protest.

Under the treaty agreed by Britain and China in 1984, Beijing guarantees to grant Hong Kong's capitalist system 50 more years of existence after 1997.

The basic law will be considered by the standing committee of China's National People's Congress next week and is expected to be passed by a full meeting of the legislature in March or early April.

British newspapers condemned the draft constitution, known as the basic law, as a betrayal of Hong Kong's 5.6 million people who have expressed their feelings by voting with their feet. About 1,000 people are leaving the colony each week.

The collective faith of free-wheeling, capitalist Hong Kong in its future Communist government was shattered last June when troops crushed pro-

democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Under the treaty agreed by Britain and China in 1984, Beijing guarantees to grant Hong Kong's capitalist system 50 more years of existence after 1997.

No other member of Suu Kyi's party, the national league for democracy, was listed in her place, they said.

Suu Kyi, who has been the most outspoken critic of military rule in Burma, was put under house arrest in July. She has been accused of subversion, but no formal charges have been filed against her.

Her disqualification follows charges that she was linked to a banned Student Rebel Group and owed her allegiance to Britain, Suu Kyi is married to a Briton, but holds a Burmese passport.

On Friday, Western diplomats in Rangoon said at least 25 opposition parliamentary candidates, campaigning for seats from Rangoon had been detained since Feb. 8. Hundreds of dissidents also have been detained in the past three months, they said.

Most of the detained candidates were members of Suu Kyi's party but it was unclear what charges, if any, they faced, or whether any had been released, the diplomats said.

A spokesman for the military government, Col. Than Tun, told a press conference Friday that only nine candidates had been "called in for questioning," including six members of the national league. One was released, he said.

Than Tun did not explain why the candidates were detained.

In January, the co-leader of Suu Kyi's Party, Tin Oo, was sentenced to three years at hard labour on charges of subversion, and U Nu, the last democratically elected prime minister, was put under house arrest and barred from the election.

Bush's statement is the latest dispute with Congress over China policy.

However, Bush signed the bill with the assertion he would not follow sections he considered unconstitutional.

He noted the legislation allows him to waive sanctions on ground

Oct. 1 and another \$5 billion for fiscal 1991.

Bush vetoed an earlier version of the legislation, not only because of the China sanctions, but due to an amendment that would have prohibited the administration from seeking third-country financing of insurgent groups, such as the Nicaraguan rebels.

Congress dropped that proposal from the current legislation. U.S. support of the Nicaraguan rebels was phased out under a bipartisan accord with Congress.

The bill writes into law sanctions identical to those Bush imposed on China after last June's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing, including a ban on military sales to China and restrictions on trade and loans.

"Legislatively mandated sanctions represent an unwise constraint upon the president's ability to conduct foreign policy," Bush contended.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan begins testimony on Iran-Contra affair

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ronald Reagan was in front of the camera again, with lawyers hanging on his every word as the former president produced a videotaped version of his recollection of the Iran-Contra affair. Reagan testified behind closed doors for about six hours Friday, answering questions about his role in the Iran-Contra affair, the failed arms-for-hostages deal during Reagan's second term as president. He returned for a second day of testimony Saturday. The Iran-Contra affair, the largest scandal of Reagan's eight years as president, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and then the diversion of profits from those deals to resupply the Nicaraguan rebels. The former president was to face 154 questions, which were drawn from 183 submitted to the court by Defense Attorney Richard Becker. The attorney was allowed follow-up questions if necessary but the judge prohibited him from raising additional questions on new subjects.

Regional polls held in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Muslims and Christians in four southern Philippine provinces began voting Saturday to elect officials for a largely Muslim autonomous region as heavily armed soldiers stood guard. A bomb planted along a road in Jolo, the capital of Sulu province, exploded but nobody was hurt. It was the second bomb blast in the area in less than 24 hours, army sources said. A small homemade bomb exploded in the election commission's office in Jolo 940 kilometres south of Manila Friday night. The explosion caused slight damage and no casualties, they said. Election commission Leopoldo Africa said turnout was heavy as

voters lined up at polling precincts. More than 900,000 people are qualified to vote to elect a governor, a vice-governor and 21 members of a legislature. The autonomous region is made up of four provinces. They are Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur. The provinces voted for autonomy in a referendum last November. Nine other provinces on Mindanao Island rejected it. The autonomous region will retain 40 per cent of taxes collected but Manila remains in charge of the region's defence and foreign policy.

Floods, storms leave 17 Europeans dead

PARIS (AP) — The interior ministry reported Friday that bad weather causing floods and avalanches in different parts of France this week left at least 14 people dead and two missing. Avalanches in the Alps and flooding in the central, northeast and western regions of France affected hundreds of thousands of people since the weather took a turn for the worse Wednesday. The avalanches of snow coupled with mudslides cut mountain roads and stranded thousands of vacationers at ski resorts at Val D'Isere, Tignes, Bourg-Saint-Maurice and Chambery. In West Germany at least three people drowned in two days of flooding in southern West Germany as officials reported. Friday that the situation had improved in most affected areas. The floods, which stopped barge and ship traffic on the Rhine and Neckar rivers in Baden-Württemberg state, were brought on by heavy storms with torrential rains and snow water from melting snow and rain poured down from steep hills in the Black Forest region and flooded scores of basements, streets and homes in dozens of towns located in a wide area about 100 kilometres south of Stuttgart.



Kyi name missing in election list

RANGOON, BURMA (AP) — The name of Burma's leading opposition figure did not appear Saturday in the final list of candidates for the May 27 general election — the first multi-party election since 1960.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 44-year-old daughter of assassinated independence hero Aung San, was disqualified from the parliamentary election Jan. 16 by the election commission, which was appointed by the military government to administer the promised poll.

The decision, which was never officially announced, came after a rival candidate from the main pro-military party objected to her candidacy.

Although Suu Kyi had applied to run, her name was not on the election list when it was posted Saturday outside the commission's Rangoon office, witnesses said.

No other member of Suu Kyi's party, the national league for democracy, was listed in her place, they said.

Suu Kyi, who has been the most outspoken critic of military rule in Burma, was put under house arrest in July. She has been accused of subversion, but no formal charges have been filed against her.

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Romanian defence minister quits

BUCHAREST, (R) — Angry protests by air force and army officers have forced the resignation of Romania's controversial defence minister, General Nicolae Militaru.

Officers who have been demanding a purge of generals connected with the regime of ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had been pressuring for Militaru's resignation.

"President Ion Iliescu has accepted the request to resign made by general Nicolae Militaru," Romanian television said quoting the provisional national unity council, which is governing the country until free elections scheduled for May 20.

The National Salvation Front, which took power after last December's revolution, had been heavily criticised for appointing Militaru, 74. Critics said he was too old and tainted by past association with Ceausescu.

Despite the fact that he served as a deputy defence minister under Ceausescu during the 1980s, newspaper have described Stanculescu as a favoured choice of the disaffected officers.

But one of protesters' key demands, that a civilian be appointed to head the defence ministry, was not granted. Like Militaru, Stanculescu is a senior

military officer.

Romanian television said some of Militaru's actions had led to dissatisfaction among the military.

With thousands of uniformed military personnel and civilians demonstrating outside government headquarters, the negotiations ended abruptly on Wednesday, prompting speculation that the military had got what it wanted.

The government announced late Friday that Militaru would be replaced by Economy Minister Victor Stanculescu, 62.

Despite the fact that he served as a deputy defence minister under Ceausescu during the 1980s, newspaper have described Stanculescu as a favoured choice of the disaffected officers.

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In South Korea, Cheney reaffirmed Washington's "unquestionable" security commitment to that nation but said the United States plans by 1993 to cut 10 per cent to 12 per cent of the 120,000 American troops stationed in Asia.

He said some 5,000 troops would be withdrawn from South Korea and another 7,000 to 9,400 pulled out of the Philippines and Japan. Details of the cuts will be worked out later, he said.

"We are not going to move precipitously... our commitment remains strong," he said.

On Saturday, Cheney characterized his Manila visit as "an important stop."

Cheney plays down Aquino row

HONG KONG (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney

said Saturday he plans to play down his highly publicized spat with Philippine President Corazon Aquino and focus on "the things that unites" during his talks next week in Manila.

"I would hope that any unpleasantness is minimized," Cheney said during an interview jetting him to the British colony carrying him to this British colony from South Korea.

Cheney's schedule Saturday included lunch with Hong Kong Gov. Sir David Wilson. He planned to meet Sunday with the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Nicholas Platt, before travelling

to Manila Monday.

Cheney decided last week to shun his stay in the Philippines by a day after Aquino announced she would refuse to see him because of negative U.S. press coverage of her government and U.S. payments for the use of military bases in the Philippines.

Cheney is on a two-week tour of the Pacific rim to reassess the U.S. military role in the region. He was expected to inform the Philippine and Japanese governments that they can expect a 10 per cent to 12 per cent cut in U.S. troops based in Asia over the next three years, and that the U.S. Congress is unlikely to keep paying as much for their support

as in the past.

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Column

First Lady cheerful after minor surgery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barbara Bush kept an active schedule following minor skin-cancer surgery that left her with a slightly swollen lip and a row of stitches beneath her nose, Friday. The first lady was cheerful and energetic as she toured an interior decorating exhibit to benefit the Washington home, a health care and hospice programme with which she has long been associated.

Smiling, but not broadly, she replied "great" when asked how she felt following the outpatient operation Wednesday to remove a small basal cell cancer on her upper lip. Her press secretary, Anna Perez, said Mrs. Bush still has some soreness when she smiles. The First Lady attended a private luncheon for the exhibit before traveling to Maine for a long weekend with President George Bush.

On Thursday, Mrs. Bush said the operation had been performed to remove "a small cancer that you get because you were stupid and sat in the sun all day." Small basal cell carcinomas are common skin cancers that occur most often on the face or areas of skin exposed to the sun.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	% Weather
AMSTERDAM	X	X	X XX
ATHENS	10	50	15 6